

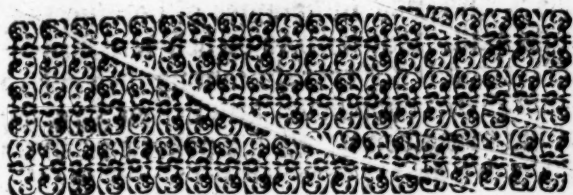
R *25*
A true Relation of
a very dreadfull Earth-quake,
with the Lamentable effectes
thereof,
Which began vpon the 8. of DECEMBER
1612. and yet continueth most searefull in
Munster in Germanie.

READE AND TREMBLE.

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A MOST TRVE

Relation of a very dreadfull
Earth-quake, with the lamentable
effects thereof, which began vpon the
eight of December this present yeare

1612. and yet continueth most
fearefull in *Munster* in
Germanie.

How happie was Adam
(our Father) to haue the
world (then vnspotted)
his Kingdome, Paradise
his Pallace, all creatures
vpon Earth his Subiects,
God himselfe his Protec-
tor, good Angells his counsellors, Sunne,
Moone and Starres his Bookes of contem-
plation, and Eden his Garden of pleurte and
pleasure, where hee had all things that were
A 3 good,

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good, and was in daunger of nothing that was euill. But how w^e etched was hee for disobeying his Creators commandement, to loose all this happinelle, and in that Treason of his to condemne all his posteritie? How miserable are the Sonnes become by the Fathers fall? How blessed had they beene, if hee had stood? For reckon by their losses: the world that should haue beene their Paradise is now their Prison. Hang protector (God) hath giuen him ouer: Angels (that then were his equals) are now farre aboue him. All creatures that were his Subiects, rebell at their Lord and Master; a little Bee dares sting him, the smallest Gnate is ready to choake him: The earth brings forth Briers and Brambles to scratch him, poppions to kill him, Serpents to deuour him, yea the heauens themselves emptie their full Quiuers of dreadfull vengeance, shooting tempests of Hayle, Ice, Snowe, Waters, Windes, Thunder and Lightning, vpon his miserable and sinfull head. That which hath a Sunne placed in it to giue him heate, foode and life, powres vpon him her Wyols of wrath: That which was made firme for his footing, and to beare by Kingdomes, Cities, and all the creatures in the world, now shakes, and opens her entrailes to swallow him in that wombe, where first hee was begotten.

Shall

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Shall I drawe before your eyes a lively picture, to make you see these things? Alacke! we write our passed punishments vpon the brest of Time, and when his backe is turned, it is like Childrens bookes clasped vp, we forget what lessons we reade there. We are all like Zenophantus, that could doe nothing but laugh: yea, our escaped miseries are but our mockeries; for (as dull beasts doe) we feelee stripes to day, but forget the smarting to morrow; growing fat with afflictions as Ases doe with blowes, and the more beaten, the harder our hearts are, like iron, lying vnder the hammer.

Since then we neuer feare Shipwracke, but when we see our Vessels ready to Split vpon Rockes, and that wee thinke neuer to fall, but when the Axe is layde to the roote; Since no rodde can terrifie but what is presently held ouer vs; O yee Worldlings, (vnlesse your besomes bee as cold as your Charitie is) I shall melt you all into water, and startle your Soules out of their deadly slumbers, vnlesse they bee as dull and brauie as your sinnes are, by ratling in your eares the Thunder of Diuine vengeance, whose noyse both now at this very instant terrifie vs your disconsolate Neighbours.

The

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The Earth-quake in Munster, *with other fearefull Prodigies* scene in the Ayre.

Munster is a Citie, situate in Westphalia, a part of the lower Germany: It stands upon a hill, favoured by Heaven for sweete and wholesome ayre, and wanting nothing which the Prouinces, adioyning to it, doe plentifully enjoy. It is rich in people, and the people rich in pleasures, and therefore in time, no windes being able to wey downe the full eares of their pride, but the breath of his nofethrils which can make Princes to bow beneath his footstoole.

In this Citie (swelling with the abundance which her owne wombe beares and brings forth:) when her head lay in the soft lappe of
Ease,

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ease, when Peace late at her Gates, Freedome walked in her Streetes, and when securitie laide all the Inhabitants vpon their wanton Pillowes. Behold, the Reuealer and Reuenger of all close and hidden impietie suddenly snatched out his Sword, and (smiting at them) made their loftiest Pinnacles to tremble. For vpon the eight day of December (now last) a vniuersall Earth-quake shooke the deepest foundattions of the strongest buildings; Churches and Steeples reeled in the Ayre like Shippes (in stormes) beaten vpon the waues, and in a moment, their highest Battlements came tumbling to the Earth. Towers of Flint & Marble cannot resist this batterie. The wrath of ten thousand Canons cannot confound so quickly, for whole streetes of Houses stand tottering; and whole streetes of Houses fall. Safetie hath no walles to dwell in, no corner to flie to. Men, women and Children are with the terroz throwne to the Earth, and as there they lie, their owne Buildings fall on them, and grinde them into dust. If any haue so much heart left, as to lift vp his hands to Heauen, he is presently struck dead by Thunder and Lightning, which rage with such terrible furie, ouer all the pooze desolately ruined Citie, As if G O D in anger had swore to make this an example to other places of his Iudgement, as hee did his holy Citie Ierusalem, not to leaue one stone standing vpon another.

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Armies of fiery clouds thus fight against these wretched people in the Ayre: thunder frights their soules, and astonisheth their hearing, the ground trembles vnder them, and because euery Sence should be punished, according to his essence, the eye that once scorned to looke vp so high as heauen, is now forced full of teares, from thence to begge one droppe of mercy, but in stead of that, it beholdeth a blazing & direfull Comet: The Stars that are the glorious Scutcheons of the Creator, and sticke as candles in heauen to light man in the night, because he should worke no wickednesse in darknesse, are now changed into prodigious, dreadfull, and fiery Meteors. They are out of that celestiaall order which the Great Generall aboue placed them in: And like a Kingdome in ciuill broyles threaten nothing but plagues, mischief to the world and confusion. Misery is euer borne with a twinne. These prodigies come not alone, but other strange and horrid apparitions flie vp and downe the Ayre: No time being free, as if night and day contended together, which of them should afflict and insult ouer a wretched downe-trodden Citie, with sharpest tyrannie: For the Earthquake, with Thunder and lightning doth twice euery day (at distinct times) shake, disloyn, and beate to the ground the houses, and kill the people, and when night should lend them rest to their calamities, they are

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are kept waking by these second alarms in the Element. Not farre from Munster standeth a Castell called Bilevelt, strongly built vpon a mightie rocke, and this Fort (for all it seemed to be impregnable) hath beene shaken by the battry of this Earthquake, and such a breach made into the very Rocke it selfe, that the Castell is sunke beneath his settled and first foundation more than the depth of two mens height: That which remaineth vndeoured in this stony and craggy Gulte, aboue ground, Teeling, wauing, and tottering too and fro, as easily (when the blow is giuen) as you see standing corne shaken by some mightie wind. Thus the poore people liue in this citie, thus they perill: but leauing them a while.

Into whose bosome shall I poure the riuer of my teares: Into my countries: she is ouerwhelmed already in the torent of her owne sorrowes: Shall I sigh my lamentations vp into Ayre: She is frighted with the vnusuall prodigies which the wrath of her Maker stickes vpon her beauty: will men heare me? Sinne hardens their hearts, and they are more senselesse than Rockes: to the Rockes, Mountaines, and Hilles then breath I out my Tragicall condolences: Alas, they tremble too, as readie to feele the generall dissolution: Let me open therefore the mangled booke of thy Ruines onely (O thou my inexpressibly dilacerated countrey) becaus in these

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leaves are written the blotted Stories of thy downefall.

Why art thou (aboue all thy fellowes) marked out and drawne to the slaughter? Is it because thy iniquities exceede the rest, as thy punishments do? Or is it because God is but angry as a father, (chastising any one & is next his hand) not in a particular quarrell to & one, but to make these stripes giuen to him, startle all the rest, and so to keepe them in feare of correction. Or shal I let flie none of these arrowes but shooting at Bowes in another bow, shal I with the Naturalist & searcher of secrets, conclude that these Earth feauers haue their shakings from the ordinarie distemperature of winds, stealing into the bowels of the earth, and there (with rombling, tossing & stragling to acquire bent & passage) they open & Cauerns of the massie foundation, and so tumble down all waightie matter & compresse their violence? Shall these Crutches serue for my beliefe to leane vpon? No, let the Lame & halting Heathen (that neuer trode in & right path of his Creation) hold vp his knowledge by that weak staffe. Let him suppose that the wheelles of this great Uniuerse are set a going by the subtil workmanship of Nature, & that their motions shall grow slow, and weaken according as he her selfe waxeth old and decaying.

But if I (that am a Christian) can read that there is a God (who controllles Nature,)

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a God that made the Sunne to shine by day, a Moone by night, with Starres in the firmament not so much to beautify that Roome, as to serue the vse of man. And that those officers of light, (those celestial torchbearers) are appointed to keep a decent, settled & vnbchangeable orderly course, if I can also read that the same Omni-sufficiently-skilfull Engineer, is at all times furnished with Thunder, Lightning & Tempest, (the Artillerie of his vengeance:) The naturall Philosopher shall pardon me, if I thinke (and so wisly all Christians to bee of this opinion) that as in our Earthly or Lunarie bodies, accidentall violent diseases are fore-runners of languishing Sicknes, or Imminent Death; So when those heavenly bodies are out of tune, disempered, & distracted, they are predictions of some fatall, fearefull, & portentous calamities, assuredly threatening some particular Nation, not shot from an ordinarie, but a supernaturall hand. And I doe farther thinke that if the omnipotent Thunderer could locke vp sufficient store of waters to drowne all the world, as by his word given (since) he hath sworn to destroy it with fire, sure it is that his opening of the same Sluces now (which ouer-flow and swallow vp our corne fields in their mercilesse inundations) are but to shew vs the old wholy which hee then held in his hands, when first he gaue correction, as these tearings of the Element, with fires dar-

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ted from his lightning vpon one especiall citie, are meere Irens to put vs in minde of that dreadfull last blow, which shall pass the world in pieces in her vniuersall consummation.

No no, It is an extraordinarie finger, that points out where such Tempests shall fall. The Lord of Hostes hath some great Battle to bee fought, and hee doeth now but leaue his forces: The Iudge of all Kingdomes is to arraigne the sinnes of some one people, and these are now but the summons sent from his court to warne their appearance. You neuer shall see these gentle Lashes vpon the outward flesh of a few, but bee assured they are Flagella Dei, his Rods which hee ties vp in bundels against some more terrible execution.

I should here weepe mine eyes into Iuke, to set downe the deplozable condition of my countrey, if I saw her onely tyed to the Stake of these afflictions? But is Germanie in a flame, and doe other Nations stand a losse off, warming their handes by her fires? Not so, Denmarke our next neighbour, with France, England, Scotland, Ireland, and many other Maritime Kingdoms, haue eaten of this sowre Grape as well as Germanie: they (as we) sit still on the weather beaten shores, increasing the wrathfull Seas with waters shooting from their eyes, for their fresh bleeding and neuer to be forgotten Irrecoverable losses.

Alwa-

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Awaken therefore (O you seuentene daughters of Belgial) you that are rich in Possessions, glorious in brautie, princely in ornaments, leaue listning to the charms of your light and wanton instruments, and let the cries of vs your poore Neighboys force you to lift by your eyes to heauen. Thinke not, though you stand higher than vs, that you stand firer, for the same Arme that hath shooke out strong Battlements, can as suddenly crumble yours into dust, your amendement may sue out our generall Pardon. Looke vpon your feete then and blush (for all your gay fethers) at your deformitie. Your ancient and noblest vertues haue you turned into Sordid and most ugly abominations, Peace hath made you proude, pride hath made you ambitious, ambitio warlike, and warre bloudie and insolent. Your industrie so admired throughout the world, and so commendable at home, is now like a Spiders Loom, curiously wrought but to no good purpose.

Sloth sits in your gates, and wantonnesse lies dallying in your chambers: temperance in diet is growne to surfeting, and those surfets breed oathes and quarrels. All your good deeds may be ingrauen within a ring of gold, but your bad-ones stretch beyond all dimension. These are the trees of your glories: but note I pray how the fruits haue bene blasted. The Spaniard hath marched with swords of fire

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fire, by the harts of your proudest cities, your marriage-beds haue suffered deturpation, and felt the hot lust of strangers, your fairest Froes haue beene rauished of their honours by the mercenary souldier: yea the Dutch themselues haue (like Vipers) eaten out the belly that brought them forth, Inhabitants of cities haue made their owne cities desolate, and beaten downe those walles that should haue defended their families: Fathers haue murdered sons, sonnes fathers, and kindred made triumphes at the deflowring of their Neeces. Your goodly streets (O you Belgians) haue beene turned into Church-yards, and your sumptuous State-houses into shambles and graues, yet these Drummes cannot wake you.

O would to God therefore (you my countrymen the Dutch Nation,) as you are now held valiant & warlike both by seas & land, that you had in you lesse courage, for it is only boldnesse that makes man wicked. O would to God that as you haue drawne your swords against the bosome of your country, you had likewise unsheathed them against the sins of your country, the happily had not we drunk of this bitter cup of calamities, then happily (which heauen auer) God will not phisicke you with the same strong potion. But because our fals may make you looke to your footing, Behold how your country lies once more bleeding, stricke by the same hand of heauen.

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Other fearefull Examples, vpon
some swallowed (in their Cups) within
the bowels of the Earth : with other
terrible and athonishing Accidents.



THE first part of this Germaine-
Tragedie is acted, the second (full
of Bloud and Horroz) shall now
be plainly shewed. It beginnes
with a Marriage, but ends in
Murder : Banquets, and full
Cuppes of wine lay the Cloath, but strikes
and dismall crying take away the Table.

Know therefore, that in a Towne of Ger-
many called Sybellen, a rich young man, (of the
age of two and twenty yeares) called by the
name of Antiochus, hapned to be married to
a Gentlemans Daughter of the same towne.
The Nuptiall being (according to the custome
of the Country) orderly celebrated in the
Church, home the married couple come, ac-
companied with kinsfolke, friends, and ac-
quaintance, who are all invited to the solem-
nization of so happy a day.

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The

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The knot being now tyed, which to Louers is so welcome, Musicke is called for, to stirre vp their bloud and youthfull Spirits. Daunces hauing wearyed them, they all sit downe at the Bzidall-Table, where Plentie her selfe could not haue inuented one dish moze to furnish out the feast.

At the table (after the Dutch fashion) they sit long, and drinke hard, and being cloyed with Glasses of Sugar and Rhenish, whose popson goes downe smoothly, they fall againe to their Lauoltaes: and in ths manner doe they for thzee or foure dayes together, renew good cheere, their carousing, and their dauncing.

And (as it commonly happens at such meetings) it being famed abroad that two wealthy persons were marryed, a number of pooze and aged people swarmed about the gates of the Bzide-house: But whether it were the couetousnesse of the Parents, the pride of the Bzidegroome and Bzide, or the neglect of Seruants, or whether it was Gods will to harden all their hearts, onely to shew some punishment on such as are vncharitable, to expresse his detestation of that sinne: or else whether hee suffered them to drowne themselves in wine, Belly-cheere and Pleasures, of purpose to lay his iudgement vpon sensuall
and

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and luxurious Dives, whilst he suffered poore Lazarus to begge crummes at his Gate, yet to haue none : but sure it is, that commandement was giuen, that no meates which came from the wedding-Table, should not onely not be giuen to the Beggars, but that rather they should be all beaten with cudgels from the gates. which was done accordingly. And so the Beggars being as vncharitable in their prayers, as the other were cold in their almes, went away with hungry Bellies, but their mouthes full of curses, which they sp tefully spit forth against the House, the Owners, the Bridgroom, Bride, Seruants, and Guests.

But their breath had no power to hurt them, it was God that was to take the quarrell in hand, not for any loue to such wicked and licentious idle Caterpillers, against whom he often hardens peoples hearts, to punish their abhominable liuing, but to reuenge himselfe vpon them, who in their fulnesse despise those poore members that begge bread in the Name of his Sonne Iesus Christ. Yet he strikes them not presently, because they should haue time giuen them to bethinke themselves, and to remember the needy. But the hearts of them all being frozen by, and pittie not enduring in so colde and comfortlesse a lodging :

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Behold, all at their plenteous and Epicurean voluptuous tables, fall to Drinking, Swilling, and carousing deepe healths, which swimme from lip to lip in oaths, in cursing and in quarrels: the wine (ordayned by God for mans nourishment) washing the ground, the earth being made Drunken with her owne fruits: and the delicate meates (whose scraps the hungry beggar would haue beene glad of) were throwne in sinfull meriment, in one anothers faces, and then spitefully trodden in mockery vnder their feete.

At this impiety the fire of Gods indignation being kindled, he made the earth to cleaue, and to swallow those that deuoured the blessings of it: her wombe opened like an insatiable Graue, and in the same were they (All) buried aliue.

The terroz of this stricke them halfe Dead with astonishment that escaped the blow: yet afterwards euen they accounted them happy that were so taken away, when they felt the sharpnesse of those miseries which presently Heauen threw vpon them. For sodainely, the Day lost his light, the Sunne hid his head, as ashamed, or rather detesting to looke vpon such wretches: and in stead of his comfortable brightnesse, a melancholy, pitchie, glutinous, and stincking, misty darknesse couered
all

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all the place : fearefull to behold , and yet the more fearefull, because nothing could be seene. And this blacke Image of Hell and Night stood before them by the space of five dayes. At whose end (albeit no man thought that God would euer haue said once more, Let there be Light) yet the Light appeared : but how ? Not to cheere vp their afflicted Spirits, but as it did to Adam , to discouer both their Sinne, their Shame, and a further Punishment. For the Day was onely shewne to them to bere them the more with sight of so deare a losse , and to make them know how powerfull he was that could take it from them.

And againe, to manifest that power, he stricke the Heauens blinde againe, and in stead of light to glad them, rayned downe shottyes of fire mixed with Bloud. And then to shake the world with beliefe and feare , that her last and most dismall day was come, an Earthquake (no lesse dreadfull then the former) both increased their miseries, and ended them : for God (accozding to his diuine promise and property) being neuer angry long, was satisfied with this their punishment, and restored vnto them that which they were in Despaire neuer to haue seene, that is to say, light and life.

Onely let not this be vnremembzed, that

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as the Land felt the strength of his arme and trembled, so did the waters, for the storme of his wrath powred downe it selfe vpon the neighbouring Seas, so that many Shippes were vtterly cast away, the Goods lost, and the People in them drowned: No Pilot in the world (how skilfull soeuer) being able to ouercome a Tempest, when Hee who once made all this world an Ocean, commaunds the waues to execute his displeasure.

Of which Tragicall fury of the Billowes this is one memorabile and notorizous prooue, (to be lamented in more wordes then I set it downe in letters) that amongst those numbers of dead carcases which the Sea (as vntwilling to beare such vnnaturall and ignoble Burdens) paide backe againe vpon the Shoare, a dead woman was one, about whose body were found tyed (as it seemed in the heat and height of the Tempest) seauen Children, she her selfe being great with the eight.

Thus haue you heard a true report of the Almightyes Anger and his Mercy, his Power both by Sea and Land: let vs therefore (whose liues and possessions he might haue confiscated in his iust indignation, yet hath spared them) fall vpon our knees with thanks for his deliuerance, and bringing vs safe through

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through this Red-Sea of troubles, in which
(if it had pleased him) we might with the
rest haue beene for euer confounded. For our
heartes (made so by our sinnes) are hardened,
(not onely one against another, but against him)
as much as theirs were, or euer Pharaohs
was. Open the Closet of euery mans consci-
ence, and you shall finde a Booke there, all
blotted, and written full of impieties, blacker
then the incke: yet so marble-breasted are we,
that (like fooles going laughing to the stocks)
we are insensible of our owne harmes.

The Vine (vntimely cut) weepes away her
strength at the wound, but no misery that cuts
vs (earely or late) can make vs weepe for our
sinnes. Sinne and we are as inseparable as
trechery is from the Soule of a Turke, or
blackenes from the cheekes of an Ethiopie.
Wee feelee the smarting paine of a slight
blow, it angers vs: nay, the losse of a little
bloud makes vs cry out, and almost starke
mad for the feare of approaching death: but
if our soules be buffeted, we laugh at it: if
they be shattered in pieces, rent, and ruined,
we stirre not at that: Her ill dayes we write
downte in no Kalender, for we thinke there
are not any can hurt her. Swallowes would
not come within Thebes, because the wals
were so often besieged: but wretched man
puts

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puts on wings to flye to those Cities, which are most shaken with vices. The more rotten the hart of this worlds kingdome is, by feeding on sweet and bewitching pleasures, the more we dote (like fond Louers) vpon it.

To set downe our sinnes, is as infinite a taske as to paint our thoughts: it is a chaine reaching downe as low beneath vs, as the glories of heauen are aboue vs. To set downe our sinnes at full, we had need to study a new Arithmeticke: to be as long-linde as the Hart when we sit to doe it: to turne the Sea into Incke when we write the figures: to binde vp a Booke with as many Leauers as are rent by Autumne: and to haue the Sands of the Ocean for Compters, yet all these helpes are not able to cast vp the Summe. For we are still at difference with God, yet is he loath to fall out with vs: we owe him Millions, yet pay him not a Mite: He loues vs as the Apple of his Eye, yet we cast his loue at our feete: he sings sweet Notes of mercy in our Eares, and they make vs presume: he then shakes his Iron Mace of Justice at vs, and then wee despaire. So that his patience and our wickednesse, our prouocation and his tender-hartednesse, are no more tunable together then Lute-strings of a Wolfe and a Lambe, which neuer agree in Musicke.

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If then the number of our bad deeds swels to a heape so great, how can wee at Gods hands but looke for as great, and as many punishments? If a debtor owe vs money, we looke to haue all, we spare not him, we bere him, we plucke out his thzoate for our owne: why should not God (then) handle vs so? Yet he reckons seldome, and forgiues much: when he sees vs waisting the Talents he trusts vs with, and too-too lauisbly consuming them, then, then, we must be sure to pay for all.

Euery man hath by himselfe an accompt to make vp: euery Nation runnes in Arerages, yea, the world it selfe is behinde hand with his Lord and Maker. The Audit Day is set downe in his everlasting Reportary, (knowne to man that it must come, but knowne to the King of Heauen onely when it shall come:) for when eyther we (by our selues) personally, or any Nation particularly, or the world in generally is to be summoned to make his rest euen, lyes hid in a Booke which none can vnclasp. All of vs therefore had neede to be in readines because the hower is vncertaine when he will call.

How vnspeakable then is the Mercy of our Saviour: how indemensue is his bounty: that our offences being as innumerable as the tormentes of hell, and our least deseruing them

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all, yet he whips vs but with silken rods, and giues vs sillops when he might dash vs in pieces: We are all his flocke, and all haue gone astray, yet he strikes but one to warne the rest. For the Diuell (like the Teumesian Foxe) ouer takes and teares all that he hunts, but he that saued the Prophet in the belly of the great Leuiathan of the sea, can and doth deliuer vs when we are held fast betweene his pawes.

O my deare Country of Germany, this is not the first warning that thou hast had from Heauen to amend thy wickednesse. Many a Trumpet haue the Angels from aboue sounded in thine Eare to awake thee: but seeing thou wilt not listen to the song of the Lark, thou art inforced to hearken to the hoarsnesse of the Screech-owle. Thou hast longed for the flesh-pots of Egypt, when thou feddest vpon Quailles and Hanna: and that is the cause that thou art worthily afflicted, and compelled in stead of rich wines, to drinke thine owne teares: and for thy full banquets, to eate the bread of thine owne, and thy childzens sorrow. Least therefore that this thy present calamity be but vnto thee as a fearefull dreame, and least thou shouldst write this fresh and bleeding misery in water, when it is most fit to be engrauen in leaues of Adamant, or rather printed in the palmes of thy hands to be euer in thine eyes,

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eyes, I intreate thee to looke backe vpon the woes which thou hast bozne in ages past: Remember some sorrowes of thy younger dayes: though the wounds be closed vp, yet behold the scars, and in beholding them, weepe that thou shouldst so incense Heauen to strike, and yet reioyce that the punishment is so gentle. Amongst many therefore of the rods, with which thou hast beene beaten, I will onely shew thee thzee, and these are they.

In the yeare 1346. (vpon the Regall of S. Catharine) the Citie of Basill, being one of the noblest buildings in Germany, and for the brauery of it called Regnopoly (the Kingly Citie) was (as Munster is at this present) shaken with an Earth-quake: which was so violent, that by force thereof a great part of the Cathedral Church (or Summum Templum) fell downe: and a magnificent Palace adioyning to that Temple drowned her loftiest Pyrnacles in the Riuer Rhyne, vpon which that renowned City stands.

And againe in the yeare 1356. on the Day of S. Luke, another Earth-quake did not onely shake and searce the foundations of all Germany, but (for many times one after another) tossed the foresaid Citie of Basill, casting downe her Towers, Churches, Palaces, and walls, and murthering in their ruines, aboue one hun-

Fearefull Newes, from

dzed persons, and with the fall of stones and timber, striking infinite numbers lame. Yet the rage of it was not satisfied thus: for by the shaking in pieces of houses that had fires in them, a lamentable destruction fell vpon the whole Citie: insomuch (the flames being exceeding great, and not able any wayes to be quenched) men, women, and children stood as farre off, wazing their hands, to see their riches, their dooties, and patrimonies swallowed vp in flames, which burned day and night, and in their greedy and mercilesse fury consumed (besides the Citie of Basill) these places also: viz. Schouenberg, Vuartenberg, Reichenstein, Angenstein, Berensfels, Pleffingen, Scholberg, Froburg, and many others, as by a Letter sent to Sebastian Munster, (by Bonif: Amerbachius) is to be seene in his Description of Germany.

The same Authour sets downe likewise, the sad remembrance of a misery which fell in August 1545. vpon Mechlyn in Brabant, where God thundred first so terribly on the buildings and the sinnes of the people, that Mechlyn shooke and trembled to her very foundations. That dreadfull voice of Thunder being quiet, a darknesse followed, with a most horrible stench of Brimstone, more terrifying the Inhabitants then the Thunder did. And that
misery

Munster in Germany.

miserie being likewise remoued from them, as bad or worse succeeded : for the Clouds opening their reuenging bosomes, threwo downe such fearefull Lightning, that men expected when the whole frame of Heauen would haue melted. And (to increase that terror) the flashes brake into a Tower that was stored with eight hundred Barrels of Gun-powder, which taking fire, blew vp a great part of the Tower in a moment : Stones, Timber, and mens quarters flying vp into the Ayre, and many whole carcases found dead the next morning. No Church stood vndefaced, no house vnruined, no man but vndone by it.

At the same time three men sitting at Cards were stricke dead, whilst the woman that went into the Cellar to fetch them drinke escaped aliuie : yet dismayed no doubt, but not so much terrified as he was, who in the heate of those diuine punishments, fled and hid himselfe in a caue by the space of three dayes : from whence being driuen out by famine (for no force else could haue made him aduenture to the light) he with faint voyce, and trembling ioynts asked aloud, If the world stood still or not. Thus Munster.

And thus farre hauing led thee backe to looke vpon thy ancient ruines, I wish thee the full fruit of all those Prayers, which the

Fearefull Newes, from

Country round about, (terrified by thy miseries, and pittying them) doe daily poure out in their Churches, commanded thereunto by their Rulers. And with their Prayers doe I mingle mine, that it would please God to deuise not onely thy our Country from his beaue punishments laid vpon it for the sinnes of the people in it: but also that he would call home those angry messengers of his wrath, whose stormy rage hath afflicted England, France, and other neighbouring Nations, to the vndoing of thousands, in their goods, and leauing many widowers and fatherlesse children, by losse of their husbands liues,

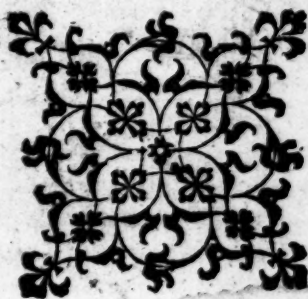
FINIS.

THE
Honourable Prentice:

OR,
This Tayl^{or} is a man.

*Shewed in the life and death of Sir John
Hawkewood, sometime Prentice of London: interlaced
with the famous History of the noble Fitzwalter Lord of
Woodham in Essex, and of the poisoning of his faire Daughter:
Also of the merry customes of Dunmow, where any one
may freely haue a Gammon of Bacon, that repents
not mariage in a yeere and a day.*

Whereunto is annexed the most lamentable *murdering*
murder of *Robert Hall* at the High Altar in
Westminster Abbey. *by W. V*



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1616.